(b) if so, status of the action being taken at present alongwith details thereof; and

(c) by when the financial assistance would be obtained and status of the project at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No Sir. However, a proposal of Government of Madhya Pradesh seeking loan assistance for Pench Diversion Project has been included in the Rolling Plan 2007-10 of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

(b) and (c) Do not apply.

Declaration of 2007 as water year

1635. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to declare 2007 as Water Year for the country;

(b) if so, the issues that are going to be focused in 2007;

(c) whether there is any plan to focus on irrigation in 2007 as a part of declaring it as water year;

(d) if so, what plans does his Ministry as referred to part (C) above particulary for Andhra Pradesh;

(e) whether it is also a fact that Government have identified 31 districts to pay more attention; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has declared the Year-2007 as "Water Year" with the focus on;

(i) developing consensus on appropriate measures including legislation on better management of the water sector including participatory irrigation management, regulated use and conservation;

(ii) timely completion of irrigation projects and maintenance of existing projects to ensure water availability to farmers;

(iii) awareness programmes for the masses;

(iv) organization of conferences, workshops on important development and management issues. Various programmes and activities are to be undertaken by the Ministry of Water Resources and its organizations or celebrating Water Year-2007.

(d) to (f) No specific plan has been made for Andhra Pradesh for implementation in the Water Year 2007. However, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Ministry of Water Resources has accepted 12 litigation/ Multipurpose Projects of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2006 and in the year 2007 till date. In addition, the Union Minister of Water Resources has requested Chief Minister of all the States including UTs to undertake programmes/activities in their respective States/UTs with focus on water related issues.

Construction of Dam on the order of Orissa by Andhra Pradesh

1636. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work of any dam on the border of Orissa has been undertaken by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that construction works is going on despite strong opposition by Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Centre to case the tension between both the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that no construction work of any dam on the border of Orissa has been undertaken.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.